

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 16-18 are pending. Claims 16-18 are canceled without prejudice.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of original Claim 3. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice. No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-2 and 4-8 will be active.

Since no new claims have been added, and the limitation of original Claim 3 is included into now pending Claim 1, it is believed that entry of the amendment will not raise any new issues. It is kindly requested that the Examiner enter the amendment.

Applicants thank Examiner Chapman for conducting the kind and courteous discussion with Applicants' representative, Daniel R. Evans, on May 9, 2005. The content of the discussion is reflected in the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 4,484,949 (hereafter US '949) is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention is directed to a coating liquid that comprises a polycarboxylic acid and titanium oxide, in which the amount of titanium oxide is greater than the amount of polycarboxylic acid.

This is in contrast to US '949 which discloses that the amount of polycarboxylic acid is greater than the amount of titanium oxide.

Specifically, the coating liquid of Claim 1 comprises 0.3 to 10 parts by weight of a polycarboxylic acid polymer based on 100 parts by weight of titanium oxide. Each proportion, as exemplified in Examples, of titanium oxide and polycarboxylic acid polymer in a coating liquid may be calculated to about 34.5% to 35.5% by weight and about 0.25% to 2.5% by weight, respectively.

This should be contrasted to the composition disclosed in US '949. For example, the Examiner's attention is directed to the US '949 at column 4, lines 2-3, in which the water-hardenable cement compositions have 23 to 25% of a polycarboxylic acid. Specifically, US '949 discloses that 36.3% by weight of calcium aluminosilicate glasses including not more than 5% by weight of titanium oxide is comprised in a water-hardenable cement composition (see Example 1, Example 3 and the Table at the bottom of column 6). The proportion of titanium oxide in water-hardenable cement composition may be calculated to be about not more than 1.8% by weight. The proportion of polycarboxylic acid polymer is 20% to 30% by weight (see column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 2, lines 6-10, and Claims 1 and 4).

Accordingly, the amount of polycarboxylic acid polymer is greater than the amount of titanium oxide, which is different from the presently claimed coating liquid.

Furthermore, US '949 discloses that the amount of titanium oxide includes the case of "0%", which means that titanium oxide is not an essential element (see column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 2, and examples 5, 6, 10 and 19-24).

Consequently, the disclosure of US '949, does not disclose that, according to a component of the present inventions, the excellent technical effects can be obtained as follows: a coating liquid for an intermediate layer which exhibits outstanding dispersion stability and coating properties may be prepared; and electrophotographic photoconductors that are good in term of both image quality and electrostatic properties may be obtained (see page 46, lines 5 to 13 in the specification of the present invention).

Accordingly, it is believed that the claimed coating liquid is unobvious over the disclosure of US '949. It is kindly requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

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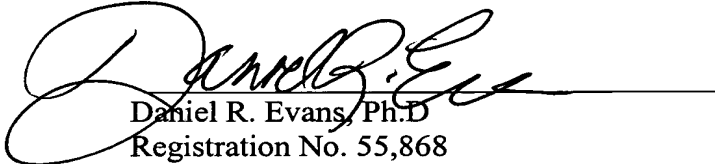
In view of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks contained herewith, it is believed that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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